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TO THE HIGH AND HONOURABLE COURT OF PARLIAMENT,

The humble

PETITION

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

In behalfe of

EPISCOPACY AND CATHEDRALS.

Printed in the yeare, 1641.

TO THE HIGH
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PARLIAMENT,
The humble
PETITION
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OXFORD,
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Printed in the yeare, 1646.

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TO THE HIGH
AND
HONOURABLE COURT
OF
PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of the Universitie *of* OXFORD.

SHEWETH,

THAT whereas the *Universitie* hath bin informed of severall Petitions concerning the present Government of this Church, & maintenance of the Clergie, which have of late been exhibited to this

Honourable Assembly; Wee could not but think our Selves bound in duty to God, and this whole Nation, in charity to our Selves and Successors, who have and are like to have more then ordinary interest in any resolution that shall bee taken concerning Church-affaires, in all humility, to desire the continuance of that forme of Government, which is now established here, and hath bin preserved in some of the Easterne and Westerne Churches, in a continued Succession of *Bishops*, downe from the very Apostles to this present time; the like whereof cannot be affirmed of any other forme of Government in any Church. Upon which consideration, and such other motives as have beene already represented to this Honourable Parliament from other Persons & places (with whom We concurre) in behalfe of *Episcopacy*, Wee earnestly desire, that you would protect that ancient and *Apostolicall Order* from ruine or diminution.

And become farther Suiters for the continuance

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nuance of those pious Foundations of *Cathedrall Churches*, with their Lands and Revenues,

As dedicate to the service and honour of God, soone after the plantation of Christianity in the English Nation:

As thought fit and usefull to be preserved for that end, when the Nurseries of superstition were demolished, and so continued in the last and best times since the blessed Reformation, under *King Edw. 6. Q. Elizab.* & *K. James*, Princes renowned through the world for their piety and wisdome:

As approved and confirmed by the Lawes of this Land, ancient and moderne:

As the principall outward motive and encouragement of all Students, especially in Divinity, and the fittest reward of some deep and eminent Schollars:

As producing or nourishing in all Ages many godly and Learned men, who have most strongly asserted the truth of that Religion Wee professe, against the many fierce oppositions of our Adversaries of *Rome*:

As affording a competent portion in an ingenuous way to many younger Brothers of good Parentage, who devote themselves to the Ministery of the Gospell:

As the onely meanes of subsistence to a multitude of Officers and other Ministers, who with their Families depend upon them and are wholly maintained by them:

As the main Authors or upholders of diverse Schooles, Hospitalls, high-waies, bridges, and other publique and pious works:

As speciall causes of much profit and advantage to those Cities where they are scituate, not only by relieving their poore & keeping convenient hospitality, but by occasioning a frequent resort of Strangers from other parts, to the great benefit of all Tradesmen, and most Inhabitants in those places:

As the goodly Monuments of our Predecessors Piety, and present Honour of this Kingdome in the eye of forreigne Nations:

As the chiefe support of many thousand Families of the Laity, who enjoy faire estates from

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from them in a free way:

As yeelding a constant and ample revenue to the Crowne:

And as by which many of the learned *Professours* in our *University* are maintained.

The subversion or alienation whereof must (as we conceive) not only be attended with such consequences as will redound to the scandal of many well affected to our Religion, but open the mouthes of our Adversaries, and of Posterity against us, and is likely in time to draw after it harder conditions upon a considerable part of the Laity, an universall cheapnesse and contempt upon the Clergie, a lamentable drooping and defection of industry and knowledge in the *Universities*; which is easie to foresee, but wil be hard to remedy.

May it therefore please this Honourable Assembly, *upon these and such other Considerations as your great Wisedomes shall suggest, to take*

take such pious care for the continuance of these Religious Houses, *and their Revenews, according to the best intentions of their* Founders, *as may bee to the most furtherance of Gods glory and service, the Honour of this Church and Nation, the advancement of* Religion *and* Learning, *the encouragement of the modest hopes and honest endeavours of many hundred* Students *in the* Universities

Who doe and shall ever pray &c.

Dat XXIV. *Apr. An. Dom.* M. DC. XLI.
è Domo Convocationis, in celebri Conventu Doctorum ac Magistrorum, omnibus & singulis assentientibus.

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